

**CITY OF KANKAKEE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SUMMARY OF MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: I would like to call the meeting to order. September is Suicide Awareness Month, being that we lost two people this month, I would like to start with a moment of silence. Thank you. Also, I would like to thank Alderman Brown for Chairing the September 3rd meeting in my absence. We will start with a prayer by Pastor Andrew Hansen from Open Bible Center and go on to the pledge of allegiance by Jared, Jonah and Josh Worden from Open Bible Center.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

DR. GENEVERA WALTERS: There are a couple things I want to say. First of all, I want to thank the Mayor and City Council for honoring Craig Blake by naming the street in front of Steuben. Rose Bailey and Cheryl Jones led the charge, Thank you. That was very important to us and the Student Community. In light of the incident that happened today, it is really important for me to come and recognize the 2nd Ward Alderman and Alderwoman. We met on September 10th, Alderman Obrien and Alderwoman Gall to talk about what we could do to support the 2nd Ward. We had already started the process. We spoke with Chief Kosman and Deputy Chief Hunt, we started that process unfortunately we were not able to implement the solutions that we had. There will be a meeting September 26th with the residents of the Ward to talk about solutions for the community. I want to recognize the two of them. They were being proactive. Unfortunately, there was an incident today. There was discussions and meetings to come up with solutions that would come from the community to make sure our students are protected from two o'clock to ten o'clock in that Ward. I also want to say, it's time to look at Early Development again...for strengths and weaknesses of all the...in our community. Again, the School District would like to partner with each Ward so we can support Wards by neighborhoods in terms of the strengths and weaknesses that comes out of that data so we can partner and make sure that we have strong support for our families in each of those Wards. The 1st Ward has started partnering with Proegler and the 2nd Ward with Steuben. It is not

where we want it to be but we have started. We extend the same partnership with other Wards in hopes to strengthen those partnerships. It is important for the Community to know that the 2nd Ward has begun brain storming and solutions are still on the table.

ROXANNA LOPEZ:

I am simply a messenger. There are members of the public that have concerns about the west side tavern. There are people with alcohol & other addiction problems...causing problems.

BILLIE BURRELL:

Good Evening...I'm addressing the issue on the front page of the Daily Journal...No Confidence Vote in Police Leadership. Frank Kosman has 34 years as a policeman and 16 of those years as Chief. He may have been a Chief longer than some of the policeman have been police. Perhaps they should look at experience and think in terms of that...he has only been here five months. Deputy Chief Willie Hunt has been on the Kankakee Police Force for 23 years perhaps, longer than two or three policemen together. He has his Master's Degree and only has his Dissertation to do to complete his PHD in Criminology & Sociology. I have the utmost respect for our Fraternal Order of Police and not just in Kankakee. They are our protectors. If I can't trust my protectors, I'm in big trouble. I said, maybe they don't know Officer Hunt, but why...they need to take the time to get to know the people they are criticizing as they are saying they have no confidence in them. Look at who they are and their experience. Patrol Commander Donell Austin has served 19 years. Why are we throwing away the galvanized experience in this city that we need to hold onto? To the FOP I ask, how much pressure did you apply to get the no confidence vote? Another thing I thought...lets go back and research how many times there has been a No Confidence Vote in the Police Chief? In my research, I did not find any such votes. I ask myself, why would we get a vote such as this? I ask the FOP... would you please give our current Police Chief a chance to see if he can do the job? I would feel bad if someone told me they had no confidence in me as a teacher. They could not demonstrate where these three people have not performed above board. I want to ask all of our Pastors' in this County, why can't we come together, pray together, sing together, love together and be a County...be a City together where we can be one people? Forget about whether they are black or white. FOP...go back and take another vote.

HOWARD MORRIS:

I appreciate the efforts and persistence that Alderman Chris Curtis has shown in our Ward and with my issues. Thank you to the police for riding through and keeping it safe...

NELSON DILLION:

Thank you...for giving me the opportunity to speak. I too want to talk about the No Confidence Vote that was brought up by the FOP. I have never heard of such here in Kankakee ever before. Chief Kosman, Deputy Hunt and Patrolman Austin, you guys have my total confidence. I believe you guys are do the best job you possibly can and you don't need the resistance you are getting from these people voting against you. It seems as if the No Confidence Vote came on the heels of Chief Kosman upon his latest police appointments and all of a sudden, we have no confidence. It seems strange to me that it comes on the heel of that. Mostly, it sounds like sour grapes. Someone is not happy because they were not selected or promoted. Go knows I have been looked over many times but sometimes you have to take it and continue being a team player, continue to fight for what you know is right and eventually you will get your turn. These gentlemen that were promoted were promoted with just cause and due reasons. They had a lot of time, lots of experience and went through a lot of things and the educational background. There is no reason to skip over them for any reason at all. Their time was her and it came. Thank you.

THEODIS PACE:

Good Evening...I am a very happy person in this moment as a Community Leader and Former Educator. We have had four African American Lieutenants in the City of Kankakee: Henry Duvall, Willie Hunt, Donell Austin and my former student Michael Sneed. I have had a relationship with the Sneed family from 1973 to present. I would like to give Chief Kosman...we have been in several meetings...for those of you who are not aware, the NAACP meet with all Police Chiefs of Law Enforcement of Kankakee County. I have had two meetings with the Chief along with Deputy Chief Hunt and I think we are moving in the right direction as it relates to some of the initiatives with the NAACP, Ten Shared Principles and the Kankakee Response Team, we are still looking for individuals for the team. As it relates to the Vote of Confidence, Chief just keep doing what you are doing, Public Safety Committee, Fire and Police Commission continue doing what you are doing with the process. Whether Mr. Sneed was 1, 2 or 3...which he was 3...for those of you that may not know

when you look at the resumes with no names on them, Mr. Sneed will still come out #1. Mr. Sneed is not only a student of mine, he is a Fraternity Brother. On behalf of the members of the NAACP, if necessary, we would like to meet with the Chief, FOP and other City Administrators, anywhere that the NAACP might mediate this vote of confidence.

STEVEN HUNTER:

Good Evening...1975 East Locust, Kankakee, Illinois. I am glad to see all of the tax payers here. I am really happy to see the agenda of the new police officers that are employed...tonight and will be sworn in, as well as, those that are promoted. Theodis has indicated, when you think in terms of the City of Kankakee which is more than a century, Lt Sneed is the fourth African American Lieutenant. I would like to say I have been here for all of those. When you think in terms of history being made tonight, the Council Chambers are full. I would like to mention the Ricky Rockets property, I would really like to see you guys clean that up, communicating to the owners to take care of that. Also, west wall of the Mary Crest Bowling Alley, in fact the City owns that now. Before, I had Nina to paint that west wall and I would like to see it painted again and maybe put some murals or something at that location, it looks terrible when you are going down Court Street. Additionally, the vacant lot at Saint Joseph and Court Street maybe we can interface with Olivet Nazarene University or KCC about putting some sculptures in that location. Take heed to what I have indicated and hopefully these comments have not fallen on deaf ears.

CHRIS LOMBARDI:

Good evening...I am a member of the Kankakee Police Department for 17 years and the President of the FOP Lodge #102 for the last five years. In late August, members of the FOP Lodge 102 took an unprecedented step and passed a No Confidence Vote against the top three Leadership. This indicates the employees in the department in question, Police Chief, Deputy Police Chief, and the Patrol Commander chosen by the Mayor to run the department. The actions of leadership has already caused good officers to leave the department and current officers seeking employment at other agencies. Those employees that supported the No Confidence Vote cited lack of leadership, favoritism, lack of trust, unfair promotional decisions, poor follow through on verbal commitments, integrity concerns, poor decision making qualities, poor

communication, disregard for policy, disregard for contractual obligations and no accountability as reasons why they no longer support the Command Staff chosen by the Mayor. The employees indicated that the current leadership situation has caused poor morale throughout the Kankakee Police Department. Since his appointment to Deputy Chief, Hunt has been a negative force within the Police Department and continues to undermine morale, avoid common sense and aped day to day operations as well, while increasing department division. Commander Austin has been indecisive and has threatened officers with retaliation causing a hostile work environment for employees. The members of the FOP Lodge 102 want ensure the citizens of Kankakee and the members of City Council that whatever is happening within the department walls will not impact our primary responsibility to serve and protect the citizens of this great City. Thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you. Normally, I do not respond to public comments. Being that this is an issue, I am going to respond. First of all, I think Mrs. Burrell brought up that our Chief has been here for a short period of time. His appoint took place May 16th. At the time of this vote he was in just over 100 days. We went through a very turbulent time in this City in regards to the Police Department. I spent an extensive amount of time listening to the concerns of the FOP Staff, City Council Members particularly Alderman Osenga who retired from the Police Depart; Alderman Brown who serves as our Public Safety Chair; Alderwoman Malone Marshall that rose to the ranks of Captain in the Department of Corrections; and the Community. We did a national search, the appointment was approved by 13 Council Members. I had conversations with Council Members that felt confident in Chief Kosman and that is why he was selected. After 100 days, you all take a vote. I will say I am very disappointed that you did not reach out to me. Chris Lombardi, President of the FOP and I have had some conversations to work to bring together the department, particularly after the last interim Chief. I was really surprised to find out that you all had done this because no one had reached out to me to express concerns. Within the 100 days, this Chief has introduced resources to our community including: the OXCART program, Stream Lined collection fees for overweight vehicles, worked closely with the Public Safety Committee, adopted the Ten Shared Principles, Partnered with the

Illinois Association of Police Chiefs and the NAACP, getting up to speed on this Cities United needs to address gun violence, he will be partnering with Dr. Walters in the United with Schools, and he led the charge to bring the Ring App which allows our community residents to contact the police providing tips and other dates on any activities they see in their neighborhoods; people are already using this app. The appointment of the Police Chief is made by the Mayor. He has been appointed and approved and I do support the Chief. He followed the Illinois...statues, FOP Lodge 102 contract, the Police and Fire Commission approved his recommendation. State statue gives the Chief discretion to pick his leadership team. It's unfortunate that you all are not happy with that team. I want to ask you all to meet with me. You indicated that you were going to meet with me before you came to City Council and that did not happen. I am hoping we will be able to have a meeting and try to figure out what these issues are. You are not always going to agree with every decision but we need to work together. It is not fair to this community to continue to go through these issues with our Police Department. I also want to bring to your attention a memo from Chief Larry Regnier dated January 5th, 2016. He indicated on Monday, December 21st, 2015 the City Council voted to reduce the number of Lieutenants by 1 leaving 4 for the department. He also that in the very near future, the Council will again address our Agency with the number of Sergeants that are employed here currently standing 14 and probably reducing that to 12. Further down, he speaks about personal and professional goals stating: I must alert all of those officers currently waiting to be promoted. Taking a test, going through assessment center and finishing at the top of the list does not make you a shew in for promotion. With the current crime rate in our country, to law enforcement in general it is now time to end the quote, it is his or her turn quote mentality. From this point forward, the Kankakee Police Department will seek out true dedicated leadership to train and motivate our officers to be their very best every day. We have all seen the officers and supervisors...retired...your career... law enforcement is just a job or a pay check. The Kankakee Police Department is looking for forward thinking and progressive officers to lead us into the future. He also noted in his last paragraph, be advised that I am looking for the best of the best within the top three. Those officers that have proven to me and their supervisors they are worthy of

promotion will be selected to fill these valuable spots in our department. This administration hasn't done anything out of the ordinary. In 2014, Regnier selected the number three candidate. In 2017, Interim Chief Dumas selected the number three candidate and he did so in 2018. Chief Kosman selected the number three candidate in 2019. Again, the state statute gives the Chief discretion to pick his leadership team. I ask that you all will be open to having a meeting so we can work through these issues. As you stated, this is just a stand for the public but it doesn't have any bearing on his position and he will continue to be our Chief. Moving on to Roll Call of our City Council...

CLERK DUMAS:

PRESENT: Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude

ABSENT: Swanson
(13) Present (1) Absent

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you. Department Heads.

CLERK DUMAS:

PRESENT: Kosman, Schuldt, Kubal, McGrath, Schiel, Pigguish, Nelson, Bertrand, Schmitz, Hoffman, Ellexson, Koehler, Brewer-Watson. Thank you.

MINUTES

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Moving on to the minutes for Wednesday, August 14th, 2019-Special Council Meeting and Monday, August 19th, 2019... *(Please Note: Tuesday, September 3rd, 2019 Minutes will be included in the next Council Meeting Packet).* May I have a motion to approve?

ALD LEWIS:

I so move.

ALD MALONE MARSHALL:

Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderwoman Lewis and Seconded by Alderwoman Malone Marshall. Any edits or discussions? All in favor?

COUNCIL:

Aye.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Opposed? Minutes are approved. Moving on to Petitions regarding a series of properties...

ITEM 7A: The minutes of the Planning Board – Tuesday, August 20th, 2019 was included in the packet.

ITEM 7B: PB2019-8-1 Ordinance Approving a Zoning Map Amendment from R-1 to R-3 for the Property at 575 South Alma Avenue in the City of Kankakee (Requested by the Estate of Kay J. Serafini).

ITEM 7C: PB2019-8-2 Ordinance Approving a Zoning Map Amendment from R-1 to R-3 for the Property at 1161 West Merchant Street in the City of Kankakee (Requested by the Estate of Kay J. Serafini).

ITEM 7D: PB2019-8-3 Ordinance Approving a Zoning Map Amendment from R-1 to R-3 for the Property at 1105 West Merchant Street in the City of Kankakee (Requested by the Estate of Kay J. Serafini).

MIKE HOFFMAN: All three of these situations are properties that are currently zoned R-1 Single Family but, they have had Apartment Buildings on them for the last 50 years or so. They are improperly zoned. They went to sell one of these properties and ran into problems in the loan process. I discussed it with the petitioner and they agreed to apply to rezone the properties. Two of the three will match the existing use of the property. All three cases, there was a need for variances. They were approved and recommended. The one on Alma is unique, it is surrounded by single family homes which is probably not the situation that would support it today but given that it has been 50 years and none of the neighbors came out to object at all. The feedback is positive and the planning board support all of the cases. The two on Merchant have shared parking and we are working with the person on an easement just as if they were normally, that is in the works and it in the conditions.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: If there are no objections, I will ask for a motion to suspend the rules for all three...

ALD OSENGA: I make that motion.

ALD CRAWFORD: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Osenga and Seconded by Alderman Crawford. Roll Call...

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
ABSENT: Swanson
(13) Ayes (0) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. May I have a motion to place the Ordinances on final passage?

ALD OSENGA: So move.

ALD CRAWFORD: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Osenga and Seconded by Alderman Crawford. Any Discussion on the three properties?

ALD CURTIS: This is on the three Ordinances. Do we have to accept the recommendation on the minutes of the Planning Commission... also, prior to that?

MIKE HOFFMAN: No, they were provided for your information and approved in the Planning Commission meeting.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Any other discussion? Roll Call...

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
ABSENT: Swanson
(13) Ayes (0) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. Moving on to Communications. We have a presentation by the Police Department.

COMMUNICATIONS

ITEM 8A: Presentation by the Kankakee Police Department – Introduction of the New Patrolmen Robert A. Huebner and Shane McWhorter.

CHIEF KOSMAN: It is my great pleasure to introduce two new officers... Shane McWhorter started with our department on May 13th, 2019. He grew up in a small town of ... Illinois. He has a Paramedic Associate Degree from Kankakee Community

College. He worked 3 years as an ER Tech Paramedic, 5 years as an Ambulance Paramedic at Riverside Medical Center before joining our Department. He has already dedicated energy and lots of time to service and we look forward for him working on the Police side. He graduated from Basic Police Training from the Police Training Institute on the 22nd and passed the State Certification exam and is currently assigned to the Field Training Program. Robert Huebner started May 16th, 2019. He grew up in Aurora, Illinois and has an Associate Degree from the College of DuPage. He worked on Customer Service and Team Building skills as a Manager at Target for 9 years before joining our department. He also graduated from Basic Police Training at the Police Training Institute on August 22nd, 2019 and he passed the Certification Exam. He is assigned to our Field Training Program. These two officers are new assets to our Department... Thank you.

ITEM 8B:

Presentation by the Kankakee Police Department
Recognizing Brad J. Latham on His Promotion to Sergeant.

CHIEF KOSMAN:

It's my great pleasure to introduce Brad Latham as our new Sergeant. He is a 12 year veteran and he was assigned to afternoon shift until he was promoted and he is now to our midnight shift. He holds a BA Degree, from Calumet College of St. Joseph. He brings much experience having worked as a Field Training Officer. He is training all of our new officers that come into the department, so they will know our policies and procedures. It's the first step in being a Manager and he has lots of experience with that. He's worked on the Tactical Response Team and the Gang Unit in the past. He has demonstrated working with the Community by being in charge of programs such as Teen Police Academy. At this time we would like to do our Pinning Ceremony...

ITEM 8C:

Presentation by the Kankakee Police Department
Recognizing Michael Sneed, Sr. on His Promotion to Lieutenant.

CHIEF KOSMAN:

It is my great pleasure to introduce Michael Sneed as our New Lieutenant. He is a 22 year veteran with our Department. He has a BA Degree from Calumet College of St. Joseph. He has distinguished himself meritoriously for 12 years in KAMEG including the last 6 months of his tenure there as the Deputy Director of Task Force. Since

leaving KAMEG, he successfully commanded the Gang Enforcement Tactical Unit which was responsible in 2019 active for over 30 drug arrest, 8 gun seized, 20 new Gang contacts and 38 warrant arrest. Based on his exhibited skills, knowledge and experience, I am recommending him for promotion to Lieutenant...the Pinning Ceremony.

LIEUTENANT SNEED:

Twenty Two years ago, I prepared a speech for this moment right here. First of all, I would like to thank the Mayor, Men and Women of the City Council, the Chief, Deputy Chief and the Administration. I also want to thank my mother, my children, grandchildren, my kids mom for always being there in the times that I wasn't. Twenty Two years ago I prepared this speech but I am not prepared to read it tonight. However, I would like to recite a poem that identifies my place as a man, as I stand before you today. The Poem is called "IF" by Rudyard Kipling...I have said this before, positive things come about when ordinary people do extraordinary things...Community leaders stand back and watch...

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: I want to say Congratulations to our new Patrolman, Mr. Huebner and McWhorter and Welcome. Sergeant Latham, I want to say Congratulations to you. It's my personal pleasure to see you promoted. You have worked in the 5th Ward, I see you out all the time in the neighborhood training our officers, You have very good people skills. You are very good with people so I was not surprised when the Chief recommended you. Lieutenant Sneed, the City of Kankakee was established over 100 years ago and this is only the fourth Lieutenant Promotion. In my opinion this is long overdue. I believe that the Police Department should look like the Community it polices. Kankakee has become a very diverse community. You are qualified and I don't want anything that happened tonight in terms of a no confidence vote to discourage any of you. You all are doing a good job and you have my support and the support of this Administration. You have the support of the community as well. We will work together to move Kankakee Forward... moving on to Items 8D –Item 8H... I would like to combine....

ITEM 8D:

Jasper Hall and Karen Muhammad of Furniture Liquidators are Requesting Permission to Host A Sidewalk Sale at 1375 West Jeffery Street on Thursday, September 26th through

Saturday, September 28th, 2019.

- ITEM 8E:** Power of Christ is Requesting Street Closure to Host their “7th Anniversary Picnic” on Saturday, August 24, 2019 from 8:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. with rain date on Saturday, August 31, 2019.
- ITEM 8F:** Community Cup Church of the Nazarene is Requesting Street Closure of Merchant Street East of Schuyler Avenue, to Host their “Community Wellness Day” on Saturday, October 5th, 2019 from 11:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M.
- ITEM 8G:** Riverview Historic District is Requesting Street Closure of Wildwood Avenue...to Host their Annual “Corn in the Cobb Block Park” on Sunday, September 22nd, 2019 from 12:00 Noon until 7:00 P.M.
- ITEM 8H:** Clara Hall Johnson is requesting a Noise Permit to Host the “Woods Family Fun Weekend in Memory of Jake Woods” on Saturday, October 5th from 5:00 P.M. until 12:00 a.m. and Sunday, October 6th, 2019 from 2:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: If there are no objections, may I have a motion to approve?

ALD BROWN: So move.

ALD COBBS: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Brown and Seconded by Alderman Cobbs. Any discussion? All in favor?

COUNCIL: Aye.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Opposed? Motion Carries. I am going to skip down on the agenda and move on to Motions and Resolutions.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

ITEM 13B: Resolution of honorary Street Designation of the 500 Block of South Wildwood Avenue as “Craig Blake Way”.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: I apologize I was out the last meeting. I was told that an Honorary Street requires a resolution and go to Ordinance. Alderwoman Gall checked with Alderman Tall and you guys are okay...okay. We have a presentation tonight for

Craig Blake's Way. Representatives from the School District, parents, family please come forward. The Mayor reads the Resolution. May I have a motion to adopt the Proclamation?

ALD GALL: So move.

ALD O'BRIEN: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderwoman Gall and Seconded by Alderman O'Brien. All in favor, Aye?

COUNCIL: Aye.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Opposed same sign? It has been approved.

MEMBER OF SCHOOL BOARD: Thank you so very much.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Moving on...we will go back to Item 9 Standing Committee Reports. Alderwoman Swanson is out I will turn it over to Alderman Curtis, Vice Chair.

STANDING COMMITTEES

ALD CURTIS: I will defer to Alderman O'Brien...believe it or not, I didn't know I am Vice, Chair. We elected Mike to be Chair that night.

ITEM 9A: Community Development – Alderman O'Brien
The meeting was held on Monday, August 5th, 2019
Highlights Include: Barbie Brewer-Watson was there and reported the activity of CDA. The primary focus of the Committee continues to be the Landbank. Continuing to partner with the South Suburban Landbank and/or developing our own. We discussed the down payment assistance programs that are available in the City and the other initiatives.

ITEM 9B: License & Franchise – Alderman Curtis
The meeting was held on Thursday, August 8th, 2019
Highlights Include: Melissa Kahoun of Aqua updated us on several projects happening in the City of Kankakee that will be completed by the end of 2019. They are doing upgrades along Hickory Street, Cypress to East Avenue...Schuyler Ave. They are also working on a water main replacement on Williams Street, continuing the

planning of a new water line for CSL Bering that would come along the plant to the Kankakee River in the next 12-24 months. They are also completing the water main replacement on the 100-200 block of North Schuyler which they did ahead of time due to the Street Scape Project so they would not tear up the new asphalt. We are Thankful to Aqua for that. They have replaced several fire hydrants and they also provided us an update on the University Park situation.

ITEM 9C:

Ordinance – Alderman Tall.

The meeting was held on Tuesday, August 27th, 2019.

Highlights include: Under New Business the Ordinance Committee passed two ordinances for Solar Systems and Shelters. Fortitude obtained a 1 year permit to continue to do sheltering during the winter. Lastly, under Alderman comments...I want to mention this for Alderman Tetter. Our conversations centered around the City of Kankakee taking a second look at the question of residency for all city employees. It was suggested by the Chairman that this topic come to full Council for consideration.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you Alderman Tall. It will have to go to a committee first. We will have to vet it out through a committee but I have already followed up with a couple chairs of committees. Moving on to the Report of Officers. May I have a motion to approve the Bills?

ALD FAFORD: I move that we approve the report of officers, place the money in the in the proper accounts and pay the bills in the amount of \$208,201.09

ALD LEWIS: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion made by Alderman Faford and Seconded by Alderwoman Lewis. Any discussion?

ALD TETTER: I believe...check number 75410, 75412...

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Okay slow down, let's do one at a time. 75410...Elizabeth?

ELIZABETH KUBAL: *inaudible...*

ALD TETTER: I'm sorry...75412. Is this all Indian Oaks?

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Indian Meadows...taxes...rebates...

ALD TETTER: Okay, thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Any other questions? Roll Call...

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Faford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall (abstain on check #75436), Malone Marshall, Prude
NAYS: Tall, Crawford (*both said No*)
ABSENT: Swanson
(11) Ayes (2) Nays (1) Absent

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion Carries. We have no Unfinished Business. Moving on to Item 12A New Business, these are ordinances and I would like to combine...

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 12A: Ordinance Amending Chapter 32, Section 231 Entitled "Handicapped Parking" of the Municipal Code of the City of Kankakee Handicapped Parking Signs Established at 920 South Lincoln.

ITEM 12B: Ordinance Amending Chapter 32, Section 231 Entitled "Handicapped Parking" of the Municipal Code of the City of Kankakee Handicapped Parking Signs Established at 1226 South Lincoln Avenue.

ITEM 12C: Ordinance Amending Chapter 32, Section 231 Entitled "Handicapped Parking" of the Municipal Code of the City of Kankakee Rescinding Ordinance No. 1999-47: Establishing a Handicapped Parking at East Court Street – 200 Block – 1 Space East of Schuyler Avenue on the South Side of Court Street.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: If there is no objections, may I have a motion to suspend the rules that will interfere with the passing of the Ordinances (1st & 2nd Reading).

ALD COBBS: So move.

ALD CURTIS: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Cobbs and Seconded by Alderman Curtis. Roll Call...

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
ABSENT: Swanson
(13) Ayes (0) Nays (1) Absent

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. May I have a motion to place the three Ordinances on final passage?

ALD COBBS: So move.

ALD CURTIS: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Cobbs and Seconded by Alderman Curtis. Any discussions?

ALD CRAWFORD: On 12C they are rescinding a parking spot there..

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Establishing a parking...

ALD CRAWFORD: Rescinding...you have it right on...you said we were adding one.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: So we are establishing on the first two Items 12A and 12B. We are rescinding an Ordinance that was previously passed on Item 12C...Roll Call...

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
ABSENT: Swanson
(13) Ayes (0) Nays (1) Absent

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. Moving on to Item 12D Appointments. We expanded our Police & Fire Commission from three to five. That was a request directly from Commission due to it being challenging I someone was on vacation...we did expand per the Ordinance and allocated funding to accommodate that expansion.

APPOINTMENTS

POLICE & FIRE-COMMISSION: Mario Flores (resume including in packet). He is a Pastor, He has experience in trauma, Certified in Crisis Intervention, Bilingual and lives in the City of Kankakee.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: May I have a motion to approve the appointment?

ALD PRUDE: So move.

ALD COBBS: Seconded.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Prude and Seconded by Alderman Cobbs. Any discussion? Roll Call...

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
ABSENT: Swanson
(13) Ayes (0) Nays (1) Absent

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: I would be remiss if I didn't introduce Linh Williams, the New Executive Assistant to the Mayor. Nichelle has moved on. Linh is a native of Kankakee, attended Kankakee School District 111, worked out at KCC, she has really immersed herself in the Community. I want to publicly acknowledge that she is here tonight and welcome you. She has been with us for about a month and she is doing a great job. Let's welcome Linh. Moving on to Item 13A.

RETURNED BACK TO MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS
(Item 13B was approved earlier in the meeting)

ITEM 13A: Proclamation for National Rail Safety Week.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Mayor reads Proclamation that includes statistics, fatalities, educating the public, obeying laws and the commitment to Partnering on a National level... September 22nd through 28th... National Rail Safety Week. May I have a motion to approve?

ALD OSENGA: So move.

ALD CRAWFORD: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Osenga and Seconded by Alderman Crawford. All in favor?

COUNCIL: Aye.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Opposed, same sign? It is approved. Thank you. Moving on to Item 13C.

ITEM 13C: Resolution Authorizing the Execution the Memorandum of Understanding Re: Heritage Executive Center, Inc. and the City of Kankakee as to the Community Development Agency Utilizing a Section of the Fourth Floor Library.

BARBI BREWER-WATSON: As most of you know, we have been talking about this in the Community Development Committee Meetings. We have an opportunity to move to the Executive Center on the 4th Floor. There are offices that have been vacant and used by the Library in some event capacity. We have an opportunity to move in there and pay less rent and also lessen the expense on the Library side. It is a great opportunity for us to move over there. We will be more accessible to the residents who utilize our programs and we are hoping to increase that foot traffic coming in so we can spend that 1.8 million that we have every year to give back to the citizens...it will be helpful if we are right in the heart of the City so we can be accessible. The Library is a great partner for us as well with our other initiatives. We have already worked it out. This is just us clarifying that we would be responsible on our end financially for that 3600 square feet of the 4th floor of the Library. Any questions?

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Elizabeth, anything to add on the financials?

ELIZABETH KUBAL: No Mayor, I think that Barbi covered everything. Steve can concur with this. We have been talking about finding solutions for the Library for some time now. When CDA under Barbi's leadership and the Mayor started talking and it seemed like a really good option to help out the Library tremendously and to provide this wonderful space so CDA can serve our residents.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: May, I have a motion to adopt the Resolution?

ALD LEWIS: So move.

ALD MALONE MARSHALL: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderwoman Lewis and Seconded by Alderwoman Malone Marshall. Any discussion?

ALD O'BRIEN: Barbi you eluded to the financial impact and this will result in a \$10,000.00 savings?

BARBI BREWER-WATSON: Yes, we have been budgeting that \$54K for our rent and it will be about \$44K...expenses for maintenance and things like that...it will save us some money even though we will build in that cushion...

ALD O'BRIEN: CDA does not have to continue paying were it is currently, is that right?

BARBI BREWER-WATSON: No, we will not be.

ALD O'BRIEN: Thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: That amount was absorbed in the ESU Budget when we did the budget.

ALD CRAWFORD: That was one of my questions. When do we take that building over?

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Take what building over?

ALD CRAWFORD: The Executive Center...*inaudible*...

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: We will have to follow up with you. I don't have an exact date, but we will follow up with you.

ALD CURTIS: My question is...you are moving and I think it is a good thing. I am not opposed to it but again it seems to come back to numbers for me. ESU is going to absorb the \$54K is that what we are saying? Right now, CDA is paying ESU \$54K towards that rent now they are going to be paying it to the Library. So is ESU absorbing that \$54K?

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Yes.

ALD CURTIS: For the remainder of the lease?

ELIZABETH KUBAL: Yes, we put it in the Budget this year Alderman and for the remainder of the lease....We pro-rated it this year for the

remainder of the lease unless we can find another option, yes.

ALD CURTIS:

So, we are not saving money though. We are actually spending more. We will be spending an additional \$44K on the overall city. Correct?

ELIZABETH KUBAL:

This issue with the Library has been going on for a long time. Of course we know we levy for them as well and they have some upcoming challenges coming down the pipe that the City doesn't have as much with the minimum wage increases. So, in the visionary planning Steve has been doing and things we have been having. We have tried very hard to find a solution to lessen their burden so that they have more flexibility for their spending coming down in the future and mandates they have to comply with... The minimum wage increase affects the Library tremendously. He has cost studies that he can provide and you can see the impact it is going to have. We felt that it was more important at this point and time to have the exposure for CDA and to also give flexibility without adding to property taxes. ESU said that they might be able to use a portion of that space but at the very least we knew we had to have someone pay for that space obviously and ESU stepped up and said that they would be able to take care of that to make the other pieces fall into place.

ALD CURTIS:

So this can help the Library with their budget and not increasing...

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: It will significantly offset their budget. This is something when I became Mayor, Steve, Allison and I had a meeting and this was at the top of his list of things he had concerns about and it has been accelerated with the recent legislation of minimum wages being raised. Any other discussion?

ALD TALL:

So the question that Alderman Curtis just asked, Is this going to increase the cost to the City? There was \$54K that CDA was putting into the cost of the Space Center that they were utilizing. So, now we are saying that ESU is going to absorb that. So that is an increase to the cost of the City of Kankakee. Am I right or wrong?

ELIZABETH KUBAL:

I think it depends on how you define the City because when we do the Levy, all the branches with the exception of CDA is covered there. We decided this would be best for

all agencies of the City. CDA certainly has been paying that rent when they can. We have had some times when that has been a challenge and they have made good on that. We have always covered for them when that has happened. We believe in that point and time this best suited all the entities of the City...has to take care of.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: It is coming out of ESU not the General Fund on the City Side. It's coming out of ESU.

STEVE BERTRAND:

I just wanted to comment. First, somebody said this money is paid to the Library but to be totally accurate the money is paid to Heritage Development. We are going to be facing a \$15.00 and hour minimum wage increase that is going to...we will have to pay employees by 2025 and it is incremental. It's going to start next year. I was in a position to figure out how we were going to find that money. When Barbi and the Mayor came to me, this is by no means going to cover...but it is a significant 1st step....to be taking this step now. I have been in meetings with other libraries and I didn't want to be in the position that tomorrow we would have to start paying our shelvers \$15.00 per hour and not know where that money was coming from. We are significantly ahead of the game here and I want to make sure that we know what we are doing well in advance...this is a definite beginning. It also has the advantage of bringing CDA and the Library together. Barbi used to be an employee of the Library so we already have a relationship going. It is an ideal place for them and it has the side effect of getting us on the road of finding that pay increase.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you Steve for being so diligent. I know we all have been working really closely on this. ESU is doing well and is in sound financial shape. As we continue to grow and expand, some of our industries are expanding. Pete felt comfortable with that absorption. Roll Call.

CLERK DUMAS:

AYES: Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Faford, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude

NAYS: Tall (no)

ABSENT: Swanson

(12) Ayes (1) Nays (1) Absent

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. We do not have a need for Executive

Session. Moving on to Item 16.

ALDERMEN & ALDERWOMEN COMMENTS

- ALD TETTER:** Appropriate...*inaudible*...who lives in and out the city...I would like a count...*inaudible*.
- ALD MALONE MARSHALL:** I would like to thank Neil Piggush for the work done in the 100-200 block of North Schuyler. I want the Chief, Deputy Chief and the Patrol Commander to know you have my 100 percent confidence.
- ALD PRUDE:** Thank you to everyone for their participation with our 1st Ward event which was very successful. We helped a lot of people. Thank you to all the Alderman for their support and if we can ever help anyone we will help you guys as well. If we work as a unit we can...*inaudible*...work together.
- ALD O'BRIEN:** Dr. Walters mentioned the incidents of violence in the community. This is something Alderman Gall and I work hard to resolve. We have been working with the School District, the Police Department, the Community and Neighborhood groups and we will continue to....Meeting at Steuben Elementary School with strategies September 26th at 6:30P.M.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- PETE SCHIEL:** 480 South Roosevelt is down and completed. Met with the owner of the property just north of the Chrislin Subdivision.
- CHIEF KOSMAN:** The Police Department is going to sponsor two citizens Police Academies. Our orientation for that will be on the 26th. We will do one in English at 6:00 P.M. at the Public Safety Center and one in Spanish at 7:00 P.M.
- NEIL PIGGUSH:** Street maintenance is finishing up and should be complete by the end of the week. River Stone Parkway is ahead of schedule and we will begin striking the Street Scape and other elements will soon be delivered.
- BARBI BREWER-WATSON:** The first of three surveys went out today for CDA. We have to put in a 5 year strategic plan...we are already gathering data...so when you see that on social media...we

are trying to get that data...will keep them going to the end of the year. If any of you have neighborhood meetings we would like to come and get the information out...

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: The fiscal year 2018 documents have been sent to the auditors and they have already begun to send document for fiscal year 2019.

ELIZABETH KUBAL: We sent 26 ...papers...

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: There will be a Special Council Meeting on the Cannabis Ordinance September 27th, 2019 at 5:30 P.M. We have had Cresco Labs for several years...Thank you Alderman Malone Marshall and Alderman Prude for the 1st Ward Community Event. Thank you to Frank Koehler for your service...Franks last day is Sept 18th and there will be a farewell reception from 9:00 A.M. -10:00 A.M.

FRANK KOEHLER: It's been an honor and a pleasure...

ADJOURNMENT

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: May I have a motion to adjourn?

ALD BROWN: So move.

ALD TETTER: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Brown. Seconded by Alderman Tetter. All in favor aye?

COUNCIL: Aye.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Opposed same sign. We are adjourned.